Delay in launching of new PDS for People Below Poverty Line

*136. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any delay in launching the new scheme of PDS for people below poverty line;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the States which have not identified people below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) A Statement on the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been made in the Rajya Sabha on 24.2.1997 and the detailed guidelines issued in this regard have also been laid on the Table of the House. As per the guidelines, the State Governments/UT Administrations are required to identify the beneficiaries living Below the Poverty Line, based on the provisional estimates arrived at by the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of "Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Port" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have accordingly been asked to identify the beneficiaries Below the Poverty Line, issue special ration cards to them and make all arrangements for delivery of foodgrains to the beneficiaries in a satisfactory and transparent manner. As soon as a State/UT completes this exercise, it can start deriving the benefits under the Targeted PDS. The Scheme of Targeted PDS will, however, become effective throughout the country from 1st June, 1997.

Improving the functioning of Singareni Collieries

*137. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals being considered by Gover[illegible]t to i[illegible]ove [illegible]f [illegible] Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to infuse fresh capital;

(c) whether SCCL has made any request for fresh funding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of Singareni Collieries Ltd. (SCCL) are:—

(i) Deregulation of the price and distribution of 'D' grade of non-coking coal with immediate effect.

(ii) Allowing SCCL to revise the prices of E, F & G grades of non-coking coal till 1 January, 2000, once every six months by updating the cost indices as per the escalation formula contained in the report submitted by BICP in 1987.

(iii) Allowing SCCL to fix the prices of E, F & G grades of non-coking coal after 1 January, 2000 in relation with the market prices and distribute these grades of coal.

(b) Plan outlay of Rs. 502.75 crores is proposed for SCCL in 1997-98 to enable the company to achieve a production of 31 million tonnes. The Central Govt. proposes to provide budgetary support of Rs. 178.50 crores to SCCL in 1997-98.

(c) and (d) Budgetary support of Rs. 178.50 crores from Govt. of India to SCCL during 1997-98 has been worked out in consultation with the Planning Commission and SCCL.

Exploitation of coal deposits

*138. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the reserves of coal that was estimated by the Geological Survey of India during the Eighth Five Year Plan period, State-wise;

(b) whether exploration of coal deposits in [illegible]